

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 074806
ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 074806

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FORM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 3795 ACTION SECSTATE DAMASCUS BEIRUT
INFO AMMAN USUN JIDDA KUWAIT JERUSALEM 21 MAR 78

QUOTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3795

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, SY, LE, IS
SUBJ: WEIZMAN ON SOUTH LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 3779

1. WEIZMAN CALLED ME AT HOME EARLY THIS MORNING (MARCH 21)
TO CONFIRM THAT FOLLOWING OUR POST-MIDNIGHT CONVERSATION
LAST NIGHT (REFTEL) HE HAD ISSUED ORDERS THAT ISRAELI
TROOPS WERE "TO TAKE IT EASY" TODAY. BUT HE REMINDED ME
THAT IF KATUSHA AND ARTILLERY ATTACKS WERE TO CONTINUE ON
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ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE NORTH, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO
MAINTAIN RESTRAINT FOR LONG. HE REPORTED IT WAS VERY
QUIET THROUGHOUT SOUTH LEBANON LAST NIGHT.

2. WEIZMAN WAS FULL OF LAUDATORY COMMENTS ABOUT SIILASVUO
THIS MORNING. HE WAS VERY PLEASED BY THEIR TALK YESTERDAY AND
FELT SIILASVUO "UNDERSTANDS THE SITUATION VERY WELL."

HE IS CERTAIN THEY CAN DO BUSINESS TOGETHER. HE SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED CHIEF OF STAFF GUR TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE WHENEVER SIILASVUO WISHED TO MEET. WHEN I ASKED HOW SOON HE THOUGHT UN FORCES COULD BE MOVED INTO THE AREA, HE RESPONDED "THAT IS ENTIRELY UP TO THE UN." HE SAID HE HAD NOT ACCEDED TO SIILASVUO'S REQUEST YESTERDAY THAT A NEW BATCH OF OBSERVERS BE PUT IN PLACE BECAUSE HE DID NOT FEEL THEIR SECURITY COULD BE GUARANTEED. BUT HE ADDED HE WAS PERFECTLY PREPARED TO HAVE "UNITS THAT CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES" MOVE IN AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

3. WEIZMAN SAID HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED SIILASVUO'S IDEA OF TYRE BECOMING UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS. HOWEVER, THIS WOULD REQUIRE CLEANING OUT ALL THE PALESTINIANS AND SENDING THEM NORTH. HE REITERATED THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL INSIST ON SOUTH LEBANON BEING SCRUBBED CLEAN OF PALESTINIANS.

4. WEIZMAN SAID HE HAD ALSO URGED SIILASVUO TO STATION UNITS AT ALL THREE LITANI BRIDGES TO ENSURE FULL CONTROL. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE IDF DOMINATED APPROACHES TO THE BRIDGES, HE HAD CAREFULLY KEPT HIS TROOPS BACK ABOUT 3.5 KILOMETERS FROM THEM IN ORDER TO BE "LESS PROVOCATIVE."

5. WEIZMAN ALSO SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED AT LENGTH
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YESTERDAY WITH SIILASVUO THE PROBLEM OF THE CHRISTIAN FORCES. ISRAEL HAD A MORAL OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THEIR FUTURE, HE SAID. BUT HE ADDED THAT IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES HE WAS AFRAID THEY WERE GOING TO BE A "PAIN IN THE ASS."
VIETS
UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

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